

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Application Ranking Summary

The Young Forest Initiative for At-Risk Species

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: The Young Forest Initiative for At-Risk Species		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, award 400 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
If application is NOT for a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), answer the following questions as applicable. Answer only one of 2a, 2b, 2c, or 2d: Project is located within an established focus area for a featured species:	
2. a. Project is located in focus areas of GWWA, NEC & AMWO? 100 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Project is located in focus area for any two of GWWA, NEC or AMWO? 75 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Project is located in focus area any one of GWWA, NEC or AMWO? 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Project is not located in a focus area of either species but benefits other species of concern? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 3a, 3b, 3c, or 3d: Project Focus is	
3. a. Is 81-100% of the project Financial assistance for core practices? 100 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Is 61-80% of the project Financial assistance for core practices? 75 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Is 41-60% of the project Financial assistance for core practices? 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. d. Is < 40% of the project Financial Assistance for core practices? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 4a, 4b, or 4c: Size of the patch being created	
4. a. Patch being created >12 contiguous acres? 75 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Patch being created > 5 contiguous acres? 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. c. Patch being created is < 5 acres? -1 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 5a or 5b: Is the patch being created adjacent to other habitat or dispersal corridors such as power lines, train tracks, shrub wetlands?	
5. a. Yes? 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. b. No? -1 point	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 6a or 6b: Is the project on Conserved Land?	
6. a. Yes? 50 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. b. No? -1 point	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 7a, 7b, or 7c: Expected lifespan of habitat improvement:	

7. a. Up to 20 years? 25 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. b. Up to 10 years? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
7. c. Less than 5 years? -1 point	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1 will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the local priority category.	
1. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, award 250 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Proximity to Priority Species - Answer only one of 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d or 2e: Proximity to Priority Species	
2. a. Will the proposed young forest habitat overlap a NEC review polygon in the State - T & E Mapped Animal Habitat GIS layer? 170 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. b. Will the proposed young forest habitat be within 0.5 miles but not overlap a NEC review polygon? 140 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. c. Will the proposed young forest habitat be between 0.5 and 2 miles from a NEC review polygon? 110 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. d. Will the proposed young forest habitat be within a NEC focus area but greater than 2 miles from a NEC review polygon? 70 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. e. Will the proposed young forest habitat be outside a NEC Focus Area, but inside an American woodcock priority watershed? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Stand Type - Answer only one of 3a, 3b or 3c:	
3. a. Is the proposed young forest habitat area predominately composed of shade intolerant hardwoods? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. b. Is the proposed young forest habitat area predominately composed of a hardwood dominated mixed-wood? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. c. Is the proposed young forest habitat area predominately a softwood stand? - 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer questions 4 - 6 only if the proposed young forest habitat is within or overlaps a NEC Focus Area and a condition specified applies. Answer only one of 4a or 4b:	
4. a. Will the habitat development/management abut a shrubby utility corridor (e.g. shrub-filled CMP transmission line corridor)? 30 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. b. Will the habitat development/management be within 0.5 miles, but not abut a shrubby utility corridor? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the created/managed habitat be within 0.25 miles of contiguous Scrub/Shrub or Palustrine Emergent wetland totaling 25 acres or more as mapped by the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Will the project include at least one brush pile or artificial burrow per acre of habitat creation? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer questions 7 - 9 only if the proposed young forest habitat is within an American woodcock priority watershed, is outside a NEC Focus Area, and a specified condition applies.	
7. Will the proposed young forest habitat abut or overlap a 10 acre or larger contiguous palustrine forested wetland as mapped by NWI? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
8. Is the habitat creation/management within 0.25 miles of a second order or larger stream? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
Answer only one of 9a, 9b or 9c: Proximity to Grass Dominated Fields	
9. a. Is the proposed young forest habitat within 0.25 miles of a 10 acre (or larger) grass/forb field with some in field shrub cover (< 30%)? 20 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. b. Is the proposed young forest habitat within 2 miles of a 10 acre (or larger) grass/forb field with some in field shrub cover (< 30%)? 10 points	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
9. c. Is the proposed young forest habitat within 2 miles of a 5 to 10 acre grass/forb field with some shrub	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

cover (< 30%) shrub? 5 points	
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Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

NRCS Representative: <div>Signature Date:</div>	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy: <div>Signature Date:</div>
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